



## J. W. McCoy Clay Tobacco Pipes

By James L. Murphy

The **American Smoking Pipe Company** was incorporated at Columbus May 16, 1896, and its certificate cancelled in 1914 for failure to pay taxes. This of course does not mean the company was in operation all that time or, for that matter, that it ever operated at all. To coin a phrase, "There's many a slip twixt pipe and the lip," especially when it comes to long-stemmed "colonial-style" clay tobacco pipes but even in regard to the short stub-stemmed or reed-stemmed clay pipes popular in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

As far as Roseville is concerned, the most intriguing piece of the limited information available on the **American Smoking Pipe Company** is that the president of the fledgling company was none other than **James W. McCoy** of Roseville. The only published reference known is the entry in the Columbus city directory for 1896-97, which lists the company as manufacturing "smokers' articles" with office at 18 Hayden Building in Columbus. It is not listed in later directories, suggesting a very short life.

The directory also lists the treasurer, **Edmund N. Hatcher**, who must have been a forward-looking investor for he was also president of the **Punctureless Tire Company** of Columbus, which also met an early demise. In 1896 Thatcher was boarding at The Normandie Hotel.

The **J. W. McCoy Pottery** wasn't established until 1899, but McCoy was earlier involved in the **Midland Pottery** and it likely that this was the putative manufacturer of any tobacco pipes for the Columbus company. Examination of the **Midland Pottery** site has turned up a few sherds of earthen kitchenware but no tobacco pipes have been found.

There was more than just a business connection between McCoy and Hatcher, for **Edmund Hatcher** had married McCoy's sister, daughter of **William Nelson McCoy**, a Putnam dry goods merchant. (Some claim that **W. N. McCoy** also manufactured stoneware, but census records do not indicate this.) In fact the Hatchers were living with the **William N. McCoys** in 1880, when Edmund is listed as a Zanesville undertaker. Two years later his brothers **Jesse F.**, **Jonathan**, and **William S.** were operating the Columbus Coffin Co., while Edmund was a partner with **A. C. Emmick**, manufacturing steel wagon skeins (wheel spindles) in Columbus. By 1887 Edmund and William were also involved with the Columbus Soap Works, and 1889 found Edmund the president of the Columbus Manufacturing Company.

Hatcher had been born in New Lexington around 1847, the son of **Jonathan Hatcher**, a cabinet maker. Edmund served in the 62<sup>nd</sup> and later the 67<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry during the Civil War and afterwards rejoined his family, who had moved to Putnam, Ohio, where the father and sons engaged in carpentry and undertaking. As noted, by 1880 he and **Juliett McCoy** were married and living with her parents.

In 1900 **Edmund** and **Juliett Hatcher** living on Putnam Avenue in Zanesville, where he was superintendent of the **Harris Brick Company**. By 1903 he was listed as a "broker." The couple is last listed in 1914 at 34 South Fourth Street. Hatcher died April 16, 1917. Juliet(te) died in 1935 in San Bernardino, California, but is buried with her husband in **Woodlawn Cemetery** in Zanesville.

Although no examples of **J. W. McCoy** clay tobacco pipes are known, this is an interesting example of his early attempts at entrepreneurship. There were, however, already major manufacturers of clay tobacco pipes in Mogadore and Point Pleasant, Ohio, so it is entirely possible that there was just too much competition for the **American Smoking Pipe Company** to survive.



James W. McCoy  
1848-1914